

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 11, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 11, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1-46 remain pending following entry of this response. New claim 46 has been added to recite further aspects of the invention. Applicants submit that new claim 46 does not add new matter and is thus entitled to the priority of the original filing date.

Claims 1-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Emil Abrascid, Data Manager Online*, Copyright 1999 (hereinafter *Data Manager Online*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' filing date is May 25, 2001. Examiner states that the date of the reference is 1999. However, Applicants submit that the date of the reference appears to be December 18, 2003. Upon searching the website that published the article (www.datamanager.it, searching may be done in the box marked "cerca") for the phrase "e-business on demand", the first document in the search results is the cited document, and the document in the search results is clearly labeled December 18, 2003. Indeed, all of the documents on the website, even the present day website, contain the copyright inscription of "copyright 1999" at the bottom, even though the content refers to current (2004) technology and has the present date listed on the document. The copyright inscription at the bottom (1999) appears to refer to the date of copyright for website layout/design, and not to the content of the article. Because the article shows evidence that it was published in 2003, and because Applicants' have a filing date of May 25, 2001, the cited article cannot serve as an anticipating reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, the claims are believed to be allowable and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection. If the Examiner believes that the *Data Manager Online* is an appropriate pre-dating reference, Applicants request the Examiner to provide definitive, supporting evidence of the reference's date, such as may be available from the Scientific and Technical Information Center. See, MPEP § 2128.

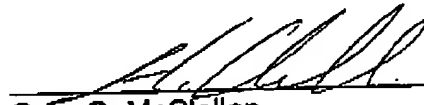
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Examiner also cites to the IBM document "e-business on demand: the next wave of IT services" which has a copyright date of 2002. Because any date in 2002 does not pre-date the date of filing of May 25, 2001, the cited document may not be used as a reference for purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or otherwise. Accordingly, the claims are believed to be allowable and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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